

Course Specification

Course Summary Information			
1	Course Title		BA (Hons) Popular Music
2	BCU Course Code	UCAS Course Code	US0930 W342
3	Awarding Institution		Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)		South and City College Birmingham
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)		n/a

6	Course Description
	<p>Birmingham City University is at the heart of a vibrant, diverse community and its mission is to transform the prospects of individuals, employers and society. Delivered at our respected partner institution, South and City College Birmingham, the BA (Hons) Popular Music programme is also situated in the heart of Birmingham's Creative Quarter. You will greatly benefit from studying in Birmingham's culturally rich, quickly developing economy in an area of the city where arts and media specialisms abound, and where the quality of education provision is high: both the College and University gained Silver awards under the Teaching Excellence Framework 2016-17.</p> <p>The BA (Hons) Popular Music programme is a three-year programme designed to develop your musical skills, critical/research skills, personal/transferable skills and industry readiness. Because the skills required to understand and succeed in the contemporary music sector are diverse and creative, the programme enjoys a rich combination of musical, technical, technological, performance, live sound, studio, music production, musicology, online strategies, marketing and promotion work.</p> <p>Upon graduation, you will be prepared to meet the challenges of a changing industry, as competent researchers and practitioners, analytically aware of a diverse range of contextual and technical aspects, able to evaluate, create, produce and plan for change. The programme's creative and ambitious content is aimed at the needs of the contemporary music sector, which is far-reaching, quick to develop and internationally ever-present in a global media-consumption-rich economy.</p> <p>The College is blessed with excellent resources, being superbly equipped to deliver an exciting and contemporary popular music programme, with a 600-capacity auditorium and multi-purpose live music venue, The Crossing, three recording studios, two music software suites, six rehearsal rooms and on-site technical support. The main venue has hosted bands and companies at the top of the music industry (BBC 1Xtra, BBC1, Island Records, The Vamps).</p> <p>The college provides a supportive and nurturing learning environment, with access to all staff throughout the course. You will be encouraged to explore musical boundaries, and raise the breadth and depth of your understanding and practice-based techniques. You will have an increased knowledge of the wider musical world, its structures, practices, technology, industry and cultural values. Thus, you will develop your musicianship, employability outcomes as well as yourself.</p>

	<p>A range of creative assessment methods ensures that your learning experience is engaging, and that your varied skillsets are valued and developed. Many assessments include an element of negotiated content, promoting a sense of individualised learning and ownership. A combination of essays, live performance, music production work, personal development portfolios and project-work ensures that musical, technological, academic and transferable skills are all assessed. These are the multiple skills that you will need whether you graduate into self-employment – typical of the music sector – or formal employment where creative graduates are highly valued. Indeed, many assessments are directly modelled on genuine industry scenarios.</p> <p>The programme builds in depth and professionalism as it progresses. The end of the final year specifically examines the international music sector, encouraging you to make the most of the global music industry and maximize your employment opportunities and musical life. Additionally, the final Project gives you an opportunity to make the bridge into employment or postgraduate study, by developing an extended area of research or musical undertaking that can form the basis of your first steps as a graduate.</p> <p>Experienced tutors on the programme come from a wide range of professional backgrounds and are widely and currently active within the music industry (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Channel 4 TV, TED Global etc.). Their contemporary expertise will inform the teaching you experience, ensuring that you enjoy an engaging, relevant and challenging programme based on the latest research.</p> <p>Additionally, you will be receive weekly individual instrumental lessons, provided by highly experienced and qualified staff from one of the country’s leading instrumental education providers, Services for Education. These sessions will greatly benefit your musical and technical development.</p> <p>You will be a full university student as well as a college student. You will have full access to all university support, learning, physical and online resources: with the two campuses being just a short walk from each other. Both institutions are highly valued for their student support: whether it be additional academic support, learning or disability needs, well-being, enrichment, finance or accommodation, we are there for you.</p>
--	--

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Popular Music	Level 6	360
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Certificate of Higher Education Popular Music	Level 4	120
	Diploma of Higher Education Popular Music	Level 5	240
	Bachelor of Arts Popular Music	Level 6	300

8	Derogation from the University Regulations		
	n/a		

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location	Duration of Study
	Full Time	SCCB Digbeth	3 years
			Code
			US0930

10 Entry Requirements	
Home:	<p>Learners must be aged 18 years on or before 31st August of the academic year that the programme commences.</p> <p>96 UCAS Points, Music at level 3, English at level 2. All learners will be additionally required to audition.</p> <p>It is recognised that some learners may have significant relevant work experience or other professional qualifications and therefore may be admitted to the programme through the auditions process.</p> <p>Examples of level 3 qualifications are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x GCE 'A' Level passes 1 x GCE 'A' Level pass plus AS level passes in appropriate subjects BTEC National Diploma or Extended Diploma BTEC National Certificate A Level 3 Diploma or equivalent such as NVQ, GNVQ, International Baccalaureate, Scottish Certificate of Education City and Guilds, Technical Baccalaureate A recognised (Kite marked) Access Course Other relevant international qualifications <p>We recognise that some applicants may have significant experience in music technology, performance, composition or live sound and may not hold formal qualifications. We operate an audition process for applicants with this experience. Auditions and informal discussions regarding suitability for the programme can be held in person or using technology.</p>
EU:	<p>Learners must be aged 18 years on or before 31st August of the academic year that the programme commences.</p> <p>96 UCAS Points, Music at level 3, English at level 2 or IELTS average of 5.5</p> <p>It is recognised that some learners may have significant relevant work experience or other professional qualifications and therefore may be admitted to the programme, through an auditions process.</p>
International:	<p>96 UCAS Points, Music at level 3, English at level 2 or IELTS average of 5.5</p> <p>It is recognised that some learners may have significant relevant work experience or other professional qualifications and therefore may be admitted to the programme, through an auditions process.</p>
Access:	<p>Learners must be aged 18 years on or before 31st August of the academic year that the programme commences.</p> <p>Candidates who hold a recognised (Kite marked) Access Course in Music and have a Pass of 60 credits - of which a minimum of 45 credits must be at level 3 including 18 at Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>Candidates who hold a recognised (Kite marked) Access Course in another discipline and have a Pass of 60 credits - of which a minimum of 45 credits must be at level 3 including 18 at Merit or</p>

		Distinction will be accepted upon satisfactory completion of an audition process.
--	--	---

11	Course Learning Outcomes
	<i>Knowledge:</i>
1	Understand a broad range of specific contemporary music techniques
2	Analyse and critique issues in musicology and contextual socio-political study
3	Compare and critique global developments in the music sector and their impact on musical opportunities across territories and cultures.
	<i>Skills:</i>
4	Excel in chosen areas of music practice (e.g. live performance, live sound, technical work, recording, programming, composition etc.)
5	Formally present academic writing and argument (music analysis, critique of cultural/contextual issues, industry structure etc.)
6	Apply the latest practice in the contemporary music sector (e.g. in music technology, music business, promotion, online etc.) and undertake high quality research-based practice.
7	Work ambitiously and resourcefully through a spirit of personal challenge, independence, adaptability, creativity and innovation, creative collaborative practice, problem-solving, resilience and resource management.
8	Apply industry-focused knowledge and skills effectively within your chosen discipline, whether in the music industry, in self-employment, formal employment or graduate placement.

12	Course Requirements																																																																
12a	<p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <p>Level 4:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MUS4053</td> <td>MAST (MIDI, Audio, Studio Techniques)</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS4054</td> <td>Contextual Study in Action</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS4055</td> <td>Working Live</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS4056</td> <td>Technical Development</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS4057</td> <td>The Music Industry</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS4058</td> <td>Creative Portfolio</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <p>Level 5:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MUS5051</td> <td>Production Cycle</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS5052</td> <td>Music Business and Personal Development</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS5053</td> <td>Technical Development 2</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS5054</td> <td>Music Critique and Analysis</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS5055</td> <td>Promoted Showcase/Product</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <p>BA Hons Level 6:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MUS6091</td> <td>Music as Art</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS6092</td> <td>Advanced Techniques for Emerging Artists</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS6093</td> <td>International Music Business Realisation</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS6094</td> <td>Major Project</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MUS4053	MAST (MIDI, Audio, Studio Techniques)	20	MUS4054	Contextual Study in Action	20	MUS4055	Working Live	20	MUS4056	Technical Development	20	MUS4057	The Music Industry	20	MUS4058	Creative Portfolio	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MUS5051	Production Cycle	20	MUS5052	Music Business and Personal Development	20	MUS5053	Technical Development 2	20	MUS5054	Music Critique and Analysis	20	MUS5055	Promoted Showcase/Product	40				Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MUS6091	Music as Art	20	MUS6092	Advanced Techniques for Emerging Artists	20	MUS6093	International Music Business Realisation	20	MUS6094	Major Project	60						
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																																																															
MUS4053	MAST (MIDI, Audio, Studio Techniques)	20																																																															
MUS4054	Contextual Study in Action	20																																																															
MUS4055	Working Live	20																																																															
MUS4056	Technical Development	20																																																															
MUS4057	The Music Industry	20																																																															
MUS4058	Creative Portfolio	20																																																															
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																																																															
MUS5051	Production Cycle	20																																																															
MUS5052	Music Business and Personal Development	20																																																															
MUS5053	Technical Development 2	20																																																															
MUS5054	Music Critique and Analysis	20																																																															
MUS5055	Promoted Showcase/Product	40																																																															
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																																																															
MUS6091	Music as Art	20																																																															
MUS6092	Advanced Techniques for Emerging Artists	20																																																															
MUS6093	International Music Business Realisation	20																																																															
MUS6094	Major Project	60																																																															

12b Structure Diagram
Level 4

<u>SEMESTER ONE</u>	<u>SEMESTER TWO</u>
Core: MAST (MIDI, Audio, Studio Techniques) - 20 Contextual Study in Action - 20 Working Live - 20	Core: Technical Development - 20 The Music Industry - 20 Creative Portfolio - 20

Level 5

Core: Production Cycle - 20 Music Business and Personal Development - 20 Technical Development 2 - 20	Core: Music Critique and Analysis - 20 Promoted Showcase/Product - 40
---	--

Level 6

Core: Music as Art - 20 Advanced Techniques for Emerging Artists - 20	Core: International Music Business Realisation - 20
Major Project - 60	

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. The following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, written examination and practical examination) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, written examination and practical examination is shown below.

Level 4

Workload

34% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	276
Directed Learning	132
Private Study	792
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	60%
In-person	40%
Exam	0%

Level 5

Workload

34% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	240
Directed Learning	168
Private Study	792
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	67%
In-person	33%
Exam	0%

Level 6
Workload**34% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity**

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	204
Directed Learning	204
Private Study	792
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	75%
In-person	25%
Exam	0%